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COUNTRY Cuba/USCR

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SUBJECT

Cuba's Communist/Control's Role

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ORIGIN

"Cuba" is something of a paradox. From the Communist standpoint, it displays all the shortcomings of a country set in the tropics. Cubans, far from submitting to discipline, prefer to idle in the sun or dance to their native rhythms. They are a mercurial people, capable of sudden, swift bursts of emotional enthusiasm, but without the staying power which creation of a Communist state demands.

2. Even the government has far fewer Communists -- in the Moscow or Peking sense of the word -- than is popularly believed in the US.

The Castro followers say Fidel's version of Marxism-Leninism, and so apparently will Moscow and Peking -- as long as it produces the desired result.

3. Fidel is generally believed to be the real boss in Cuba -- and he believes it himself.

The real boss of Cuba is very probably Ernesto (Che) Guevara, Argentine-born and a life-long Communist. But Che is willing to let Fidel believe he is still running the country. Che is also said to have a talent for planting ideas in Fidel's mind with such skill that Fidel believes them to be his own. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, head of the Agrarian Reform Ministry, is another leader who, like the Che, comes closer to being a doctrinaire Communist. But even the hard-core Reds are unlikely to try to displace Fidel because all of them realize that his magic demagoguery is vital to the regime.

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